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LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 19 March 1999 (S/1999/311), by which you transmitted for the attention of the members of the Security Council a copy of a letter dated 19 March 1999 addressed to you by Omar Mustafa Muntasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

In this connection, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement made by the President of the Security Council to the press on behalf of the members of the Council on 23 March 1999 following consultations of the whole.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
President of the Security Council

99-08182 (E) 230399

Annex

Statement made to the press on 23 March 1999

Security Council members welcomed the letter of 19 March 1999 from the Foreign Minister of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the Secretary-General, indicating that the two suspects would be available for the Secretary-General to take custody of them on or before 6 April.

Security Council members reaffirmed existing Security Council resolutions as the basis for bringing about a full and final resolution of the situation.

Security Council members looked forward to the implementation of that handover in accordance with the agreed arrangements and, taking into account also the information provided by the French authorities regarding UTA 772, to the immediate suspension of sanctions with a view to lifting them as soon as circumstances permit, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions.

Security Council members thanked the Secretary-General for his tireless efforts in reaching an understanding with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1192 (1998), and expressed appreciation also for the positive actions taken by the Governments of South Africa, Saudi Arabia and other countries in support of these efforts.